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TO THE AYSGARTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1944.

Vital Statistics.

		Total	M	F		
Births	Legitimate	72	37	35	Birth Rate	21.05
	Illegitimate	2	-	2		

There was one stillbirth, the child being legitimate.

	Total	M	F		
Deaths	44	22	22	Death Rate	12.49

Number of women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth. (from Sepsis Nil
(from other causes Nil

Deaths of infants under one year of age, per 1000 births Nil

Deaths from Measles	(All ages)	Nil
" " Whooping Cough	(All ages)	Nil
" " Diarrhœa	(under 2 years)	Nil

Infectious Disease.

Notifiable Diseases during the year 1944.

Diseases	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Enteric	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	6	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	2	2	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	Nil	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	4	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	7	Nil	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Nil	Nil	Nil
Measles	2	Nil	Nil
Dysentery	1	Nil	Nil
Undulant fever	1	Nil	Nil

Tuberculosis.

One notification of the above has been received during the year.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Up to 31st December 1944, 94.52% of school children and 70.75% of pre-school children have been immunised.

Herewith I append the Report of the Council's Sanitary Inspector.

I beg to remain,
Your obedient Servant,

W.N .PICKLES,

Medical Officer of Health.

Dear Dr. Pickles.

It is with pleasure that I have the honour to submit the following report for the year ended 31st December 1944.

1. Water Supply:

I have endeavoured to visit regularly during the year, the 16 sources of domestic water supply under the control of the Council and although several complaints of a shortage of supply were received during the drier periods, no serious or prolonged shortage of water has been experienced. The complaints were given immediate attention and every effort was made to ease the situation as early as possible.

No work of major importance was carried out during the year in view of the much promised new legislation and Government Grants, and I have pleasure in reporting that the Council, in September, appointed Messrs. Rodwell & Son, as Consulting Engineers, and after a complete survey of the Rural District, they are now preparing schemes of extension or enlargement to existing services and also the provision of new supplies. The Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, if properly taken advantage of by the Council, will, in my opinion, be a great boon to an area like ours in improving water supplies, especially so when one bears in mind the small rate product in the District, but difficulty may be encountered in obtaining the necessary labour to carry out improvements.

Advantage has again been taken of the services of the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Northallerton, for the bacteriological examination of water, some 20 samples obtained from the Council's supplies having been submitted for analysis. Similar remarks as made in previous reports regarding the results of these analyses again apply, the bacteriologist being of the opinion that the purity of the water is not of good standard, owing chiefly to surface pollution of the sources of supply, and this is a matter which is now engaging the attention of the Council's Consultants.

New connections to the Council's mains in various parts of the District have been chiefly carried out to improve matters at various farm premises, the work being undertaken by the farmers, and grant-aided, in conjunction with the War Agricultural Executive Committee.

2. Sewage Disposal & Drainage:

Visits to the various sewage disposal plants in the area have been made regularly during the year and although no alterations or extensions to the works have been carried out, the Council's Engineers have in course of preparation new schemes for serving part of the district and these will, I hope, be submitted for approval during the course of the next few months. All the existing schemes are given periodical cleaning and apart from a complaint from the Fisheries Board relating to one of the works at Hardraw, no other serious matter has been brought to my notice, although several of the works are, in my opinion, overloaded and out of date. Three more premises were connected to the new sewage scheme in Bainbridge and more connections will be made immediately labour is available for this work to be carried out.

3. Refuse Collection & Disposal:

The village of Bainbridge and some few houses in the parish of Low Abbotside are the only portions of the district having a regular collection of household refuse, the work being carried out by contract. A further attempt to introduce the service in the village of Askrigg again attracted no tenders as the tip for the village is too far away for horsedrawn vehicles.

The refuse throughout the area is disposed of by means of controlled tipping. Attendants are provided at the tips in a number of Parishes.

4. Salvage:

The collection and disposal of waste paper and bones has been continued during the year, the gathering of tins and light metal being discontinued following the receipt of the Ministry's official circular on the subject.

Great difficulty has again been experienced during the year in disposing of the materials, particularly waste paper. The local contractor who undertakes the work has had several misfortunes with his vehicle and when this has been available advantage has been taken to have the paper removed. The weight of material delivered to the the Paper Mills at Settle is in the region of 6 tons, a considerable reduction on the previous year's figures, but this form of salvage is not being made available to the general public and is therefore not being put out for collection. Some 8½ tons of tins and scrap metal has been removed, all the dumps in the area were cleared during the early part of the year and the contractor collected slightly over 10 cwt. of bones during the year. In addition, over 21 tons of scrap metal were collected, following a survey of a number of farms in the district by the Ministry's lady inspector.

5. Food & Drugs Act:

(a) Milk & Dairies.

Some 203 visits were made to farm premises in the area during the course of my duties, and in several cases improvements and alterations have been effected in spite of the great difficulty still encountered in obtaining the necessary labour to carry out this work.

There are still a number of farm premises where milk is produced which require alterations and improvements before they are made to comply with the Orders, but as mentioned above, the labour situation retards progress in this direction to no small extent, and one would welcome the publication of the proposed Government handbook on Farm Buildings so that owners could be advised as to the standards likely to be adopted when this section of our work is taken over by the Ministry of Agriculture as is proposed. If this were available, I feel sure that there are quite a number of owners and tenants who would be willing to put their premises in order without much delay, but until some guidance is given on this matter, one feels adverse to suggest extensive alterations.

(b) Meat & Food Inspection.

The meat supplied to traders in the district is slaughtered at the Ministry of Food's Central Slaughterhouse at Leyburn, and the inspection of all animals slaughtered there is carried out by the Leyburn Inspector and myself. I can only repeat my remarks last year in saying that the quality and the quantity of meat available calls for little comment.

Nine licences to slaughter animals under the 1933 Act were in force in the Area during the year.

Visits to all foodshops in the district have again been made and the co-operation of the tradesmen concerned is much appreciated.

6. Housing & Public Health Acts:

Extensive repairs to property in the district has again been impossible owing to the lack of sufficient labour for this purpose but general minor repairs have been carried out and very little difficulty has been experienced in obtaining the majority of materials necessary for this work. A number of permits have been submitted by the Ministry of Works for general repairs and I have had several requests for certificates from owners who desired to carry out slight improvements to property, particularly in renewing cooking facilities, domestic fire ranges etc. and when the owners have been requested to have repairs carried out, these have been put in hand as early as possible.

The publication of the Government Report on Rural Housing, generally known as the 'Hobhouse Report' has received no small attention from the Council and it is agreed that quite a considerable amount of work can be carried out in the district by reconditioning of properties when labour and materials become more readily available. Before this work can be put in hand the Council will find it necessary to adopt Byelaws with respect to Working Class Dwellings under the Housing Act, and are quite prepared to do so when the revised form is received from the Ministry.

7. Overcrowding:

(a)	No. of dwelling houses overcrowded at beginning of year -- -- -- -- --	5
(b)	" " families dwelling therein -- -- -- -- --	5
(c)	" " persons dwelling therein -- -- -- -- -- --	35
(d)	" " new cases of overcrowding during year - --	Nil
(e)	" " cases relieved during year -- -- -- -- --	Nil
(f)	" " families concerned in such cases -- -- --	Nil
(g)	" " persons " " " " -- -- --	Nil

8. Infestation Order: Rats & Mice Destruction Act , 1919.

The Council have, at the request of the County Council, accepted delegation of powers under the above legislation and very few complaints of infestation have been received. Where the presence of rats is suspected, an inspection of the premises is made, and the owner or occupier advised as to the best method of dealing with the matter.

9. Petroleum Spirit:

Three licences are in force under this legislation in the district and regular visits have been made to the premises concerned.

I desire again to take the opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members of the Council, the Members of the Staff and yourself in particular for the assistance and co-operation I have received during the year.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

A.WARBURTON,

Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor.